



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 27, 1951

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

General Walter Bedell Smith
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Administration Building
Room 123
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

I thought you would be interested in the following information furnished by an informant who has given the Bureau reliable and valuable information in the past and which is purported to represent statements made by a Soviet official stationed in Europe who, informant believes, is an important official of the Soviet Ministry of State Security.

According to the informant, the Russians believe that the older people in the United States want war but the younger people are against war with the Soviet Union. In Russia, the younger people want war but the older people do not want war. The "Comintern" (probably Cominform) is said to want peace at any price but the members of the Politburo in Russia are divided three ways. Two thirds of the Politburo are said to desire war now with the United States. Half of this group desires war because it is believed the USSR should not give the United States time to be prepared and that immediate war would result in defeat of the United States. The other half of this group wants war immediately because they are "panicky" and feel that war now would be better than waiting a year. The members of this group, representing approximately two thirds of the Politburo, do not desire to cause trouble in Europe but are in favor of concentrating completely in the East, including India, Indochina, Indonesia, Malaya, the Philippines and Burma. They believe that this is where they can hurt North American interests most.

FBI REVIEW COMPLETED

Another third of the Politburo headed by Stalin believes that it would be better for the Communist world not to have war for twenty or twenty-five years; that the "imperialistic world" will "swallow itself" and have an economic crisis. They believe that capitalism is dead.

It was stated that the people in Russia are split in about the same manner as the Politburo and that the older workers in the Communist Party in Russia share the opinion of Stalin.

It was also stated that while Georgi Malenkov is in favor of war now with the United States because he believes the USSR can win the war, he officially is backing Stalin. There is considerable pressure being exerted in the Politburo to cause Malenkov to officially support the two-thirds majority desiring war. It was stated that if this can be done Stalin might also consent to a war and war would then be provoked.

According to the informant, he was also advised that if Stalin should die there would be immediate war. He was also advised that if a certain "colossal thing" is accomplished by the end of the year "big things" could be expected in the Far East and America would not dare to fight against it. Informant advises that the "colossal thing" was described as something which "even Jules Verne or H. G. Wells never could have foreseen." Informant believes that this is some kind of a secret weapon and that the Soviets will know whether it can be developed by the end of 1951.

According to the informant, the acting Minister of State Security in Moscow has stated that if the "colossal thing" is accomplished America represents no physical danger to the Soviet Union.

Means that it will not be necessary to consider this question of war for 25 yrs - this period will either prove or wrong. If wrong, then the question of war should be considered

It was indicated to the informant that even if Stalin does not die he may be won over by the two-thirds majority of the Politburo favoring war and that if the United States keeps making trouble and continues to be "snooty" as in the recent past, Stalin may not stand for it much longer and will consent to war. It was pointed out, however, that the Soviets have not given up the idea of peace and if the Americans are earnest and the Soviets can believe the Americans they will still desire peace.


Informant is of the opinion that Georgi Malenkov is the most important single individual in Russia other than Stalin. He is also of the opinion from information furnished him, that the Soviets will start war in the Far East in the Spring of 1952, if Stalin can be won over by the two-thirds majority of the Politburo or if the "colossal thing" has been perfected by that time. He is also of the opinion that if the "colossal thing" is completed before the Spring of 1952, the Soviets will not wait until then to attack.

I am unable to evaluate the above information other than to state that our informant has furnished reliable and valuable information in the past. This informant can be expected to furnish valuable information in the future and for his protection, it is requested that this data be treated as highly confidential and be given minimum distribution.

The above information has been furnished to Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers, Special Consultant to the President; The Attorney General; Honorable James S. Lay, Executive Secretary, National Security Council; Rear Admiral Felix L. Johnson, Director of Naval Intelligence; Major General A. R. Bolling, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2; and Major General Joseph F. Carroll, Director of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J." and last name "Hoover" clearly distinguishable.